



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

Dr. Isabelle Chmitelin
Acting Chief Veterinary Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
251 Rue de Vaugirard
75732 Paris
Cedex 15, France

NOV 21 2000

Dear Dr. Chmitelin:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed an on-site audit of France's meat and poultry inspection system. The audit was conducted from October 16 – November 8, 2000. Enclosed is a copy of the final audit report. Your comments have been included as Attachment G in the final audit report.

As a result of comments received from the Government of France, FSIS has made the following changes to the draft final audit report.

- ◆ Page 23—FSIS has added language that states that the Director of Veterinary Services in each *Departement* executes instructions provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which have the objective of establishing a uniform and coherent approach over the entire country of France. However, our conclusion has not changed.
- ◆ Page 23—FSIS has added language that states that violations are referred to the National Brigade and that the results are not made available. FSIS also states that there was no evidence to indicate that the Residue Control Plan was modified to increase the level of monitoring for compounds of concern.
- ◆ Page 24—FSIS has added language that states that the National Brigade is notified of positive results for prohibited substances, but that FSIS found no evidence that any follow up sampling or on farm investigation was initiated.

FSIS appreciates your comments on the draft final audit report. We have carefully considered your comments and have made the above changes to the draft final report for accuracy.

If you have questions regarding the audit or need additional information, please contact me at 202-720-3781. My fax number is 202-720-7990 and my email address is sally.stratmoen@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Goodwin

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Sally Stratmoen
Acting Director
International Policy Staff
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc:

Alejandro Checchi-Lang, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Besa Kotati, Agricultural Counselor, U.S. Embassy, Paris
Jean-Christophe Paille, Counselor for Agriculture, Embassy of France, Washington, DC
Gerry Keily, Counselor (Agriculture), EU Mission to the US, Wash, DC
Mary Revelt, Minister/Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, USEU/Brussels
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Country File-France Audit FY 2000—final

FSIS:OPPDE:IPS:NGoodwin:mm:10/23/01:720-9187:France-final audit to CVO Nov 2000

Clearance:

Sally Stratmoen, Acting Director, ES, FSIS, IPS

Initial

Date
